

Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

www.iowadnr.com

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June 1, 2004

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FREE FISHING DAYS SET FOR JUNE 4, 5 AND 6

Des Moines - Sport fishing license requirements have been waived for Iowa residents on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 4 through 6. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has set aside this three-day period for free fishing in recognition of National Fishing Week, June 5-13.

All fishing laws, including size and creel limits are still in effect. Copies of the *2004 Iowa Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Regulations* are available wherever fishing licenses are sold, DNR offices or on the web at www.iowadnr.com.

Iowans are encouraged to take part in the many fishing events co-sponsored by the DNR during the spring and summer and to go fishing during Free Fishing Days. Check out www.iowadnr.com for a list of events occurring in Iowa.

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STATE AND NATIONAL FISHING WEEK

DES MOINES - Discover just how much fun fishing and boating can be when done together. No activity can bond a family together quite like boating and fishing. It's a great way for families to have fun, create new memories and spend time together.

Across the country, numerous fishing, boating and aquatic stewardship events happen throughout the year, many of which occur during National Fishing and Boating Week, June 5 - 13, 2004.

These events provide opportunities for families and friends to share fun, quality time together while learning about two of our nation's favorite pastimes - recreational boating and fishing. There's something for everyone. Several state parks will have special fishing and boating events during National Fishing Week. Those parks include Lake Ahquabi, Bellevue, Backbone, Clear Lake, the Gull Point complex, Manawa, Ledges, George Wyth, Brushy Creek and Lewis and Clark.

For more information about National Boating and Fishing Week, check out www.waterworkswonders.org.

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36 FISHING CLINICS SCHEDULED DURING FREE FISHING DAYS

DES MOINES – There are 36 fishing clinics scheduled during June 4 through 6 as part of free fishing days in Iowa. Activities vary at each clinic and may include fish identification, how to operate a reel, different ways to cast, knot tying, how to handle fish, bait presentations and different fish cleaning methods.

Free fishing days is for Iowa residents only.

Call the clinic for more details.

June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Lake Hendricks, Riceville, 563-547-3634
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Willow Lake, Woodbine, 712-647-2785
June 5, Youth Fishing Tournament, Lake Pahoja, Larchwood, 712-472-2217
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Bacon Creek Lake, Sioux City, 712-252-1335
June 5, Fishing Tournament, Swan Lake State Park, Carroll, 712-792-4614
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Arrowhead Lake, Neola, 712-485-2295
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Lake Anita State Park, Anita, 712-762-3564
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Maquoketa River Backbone State Park, Dundee, 563-933-4417
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Gustafson Lake, Sioux Rapids, 712-749-2563
June 5, All Ages Fishing Clinic, F.W. Kent Park, Tiffin, 319-645-1011
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Twin Springs Pond, Decorah, 563-382-4158
June 5, All Ages Fishing Clinic, DeSoto Bend, Missouri Valley, 712-642-5403
June 5, Fishing Tournament, Raccoon River Park, West Des Moines, 515-222-3320
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Marr Park, Ainsworth, 319-657-2400

June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Pioneer Park, Clarinda, 712-542-3864
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Mill Creek State Park, Paullina, 712-448-2254
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Chicken Creek Saulsbury Bridge Rec. Area, Muscatine, 563-264-5922
June 5, All Ages Fishing Clinic, Gahn Wildlife Refuge, Burlington, 319-753-5808
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Black Hawk Lake – Ice House Point, Lake View, 712-662-4530
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Prairie Rose State Park, Harlan, 712-773-2701
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Central Park Lake, Center Junction, 563-487-3541
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, West Lake Park, Davenport, 563-328-3281
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Water Works Park, Des Moines, 515-244-3773
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Andrew Jackson Demonstration Farm, Andrew, 563-652-3783
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Rockwell City Recreational Area, Rockwell City, 712-297-8611
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Ikes Lake and Clubhouse, Newton, 641-792-0348
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Great Western Park, Manning, 712-792-4614
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Pinicon Ridge County Park, Central City, 319-892-6485
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, McIntosh Woods State Park, Ventura, 641-357-3517
June 5, Youth Fishing Clinic, Lake Cornelia Park, Clarion, 515-532-3185
June 6, Youth Fishing Clinic, Pin Oak Marsh, Chariton, 641-774-2438
June 6, Fishing Tournament, East Park, Mason City, 641-421-3673
June 6, All Ages Fishing Clinic, Wilder’s Park, Allison, 319-267-2742
June 6, Youth Fishing Clinic, Pollimeir Park, West Point, 319-372-7561
June 6, Youth Fishing Clinic, Browns Lake, Salix, 712-233-1513
June 6, Youth Fishing Clinic, Hickory Grove Lake, Colo, 515-232-2516

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PRIVATE PARTNERS SOUGHT FOR HONEY CREEK RESORT STATE PARK

A nationwide search is underway for partners in a unique recreational resort complex planned for Rathbun Lake in south-central Iowa. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is looking for private developers to build and operate a 108-room lodge, 18-hole golf course and approximately 30 family cabins at the Honey Creek Resort State Park.

“Although the concept of a resort state park is a first for Iowa, other states have tried it with great success,” said Arnie Sohn, the DNR’s project coordinator for the resort complex. “It is a unique, challenging, venture for Iowa that promises to be a showpiece for the state in terms of recreational opportunities.”

“What we need is private developers who want to partner with us and who share the same goal of protecting the site’s natural resources. We need partners who will work with us to create a complex suitable for anything from corporate retreats and conferences to the traditional, relaxing family vacation,” Sohn added.

“We’re looking for golf course designers who will work with us to build a course that the Audubon Society can officially designate as ‘bird friendly.’ We want the facilities to be good examples of sustainable design where energy consumption is kept to a minimum, environmentally friendly construction materials and methods are used, and impacts on the 820-acre site and on Rathbun Lake are kept to a minimum.”

Honey Creek Resort State Park lies next to the existing Honey Creek State Park. Plans call for a pedestrian trail bridge to link the two parcels, making a single 1,700-acre park instead of two isolated 850-acre parks. The bridge, along with new roads, wastewater system, enclosed picnic shelters, overlooks, park activities building, equestrian center, a variety of trails, boat ramp and guest docking will be financed through public funding sources. Private developers are being sought for the lodge and conference center, golf course and family cabins.

Development will follow a master plan established by SmithGroupJJR. Facilities will be located in a manner that provides visitors the opportunity to be close to nature, while assuring that unique, high-quality natural features are not harmed by the development. The site has been thoroughly inventoried and assessed for its natural and archaeological features as a part of the master planning process. The primary entrance road to the new park is nearly complete, and a three-mile system of walking trails will be constructed this summer.

Interested developers should respond to a “Request for Expressions of Interest,” by July 9. A copy of the Request for Expressions of Interest is available by contacting Sohn via email at arnie.sohn@dnr.state.ia.us or by calling (515) 281-5814. A committee of state and local representatives will evaluate all responses and develop a list of potential partners who will be invited to submit more formal proposals.

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IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of June 1, 2004
www.iowadnr.com

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Northeast

Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15: The Mississippi River is extremely turbid with floating debris. The gates are out at both **Lock and Dam 9 and 10** and water levels continue to rise. A few walleyes are being caught drift fishing leeches or night crawlers through Minnesota Slough (**Pool 9**). Freshwater drum, carp and catfish are also biting. These species exploit the new food sources being washed into the river. The best methods to catch them is to use either night crawlers or prepared scent baits in freshly flooded areas. These species are all strong fighters and can be good eating fish if prepared correctly. They can turn normally unpleasant fishing conditions into a fun and productive angling day. River stage at Bellevue is 13.7 feet and rising. Bluegills are biting in backwater areas in **Pools 12-15**.

The rivers in northeast Iowa are up and muddy. Channel catfish are biting in flooded areas using night crawlers fished from the banks. NEVER boat on a flooded river.

Volga Lake (Fayette): Crappie, bluegill and largemouth bass fishing is fair. The water level is still high on Volga Lake, but clarity is improving.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): Bluegills are good on a piece of night crawler. Crappie fishing is good on minnows. Largemouth bass are hitting surface baits.

South Prairie (Black Hawk): Crappie fishing is good on a jig and minnow.

Casey Lake (Tama) in Hickory Hills Park is good for bluegills on jigs and night crawlers. Largemouth bass are being picked up with a variety of lures (crankbaits, rubber worms and spinner baits).

Trout stream conditions are highly variable; however, most are in good shape with water clarity improving. For current trout stocking information on northeast Iowa trout streams, call the trout stocking hotline at 563-927-5736. You can also access the trout stocking calendar through the internet at www.iowadnr.com and go to the fish and fishing web pages.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): The walleye bite continues. Anglers are catching many sub-legal fish, but limits are also being found. The bite for keepers is best during late evenings and early mornings. Use minnows and leeches on the west side and in Angler's Bay. Remember the 14-inch minimum length limit. Crappie fishing is good in Angler's Bay and Hales Slough. Use mini-jigs or flies in the bulrushes for the best results. Smallmouth bass are good over the rock piles off Big Stoney Point, Little Stoney Point, Cottonwood and Rednose Point. Use soft plastics or jig and minnow. Largemouth bass fishing is excellent around the docks and in the bulrushes in Angler's Bay. Anglers are catching bullheads at the North Grade with fish up to 2-1/2 pounds available.

Little Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Bullhead fishing is good at the Little Spirit tubes. Anglers are picking up some nice walleyes.

West Okoboji (Dickinson): Anglers are finding a few walleyes during the day, but the walleye bite is best after dark. During the day, look for clumps of weeds in 14 to 18 feet of water. Use live bait rigs and slip bobbers tipped with minnows, night crawlers

or leeches. Fish slowly. The nighttime bite is best from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. Long-line trolling crankbaits will produce best. Panfish action is stable. Try the Harbor, Triboji or the canals on the Miller's Bay side. Bluegills are around the docks on the main lake. Northern pike action is good on a jig and minnow. Smallmouth and largemouth bass are good fishing over the rock piles. Small grubs or tube jigs tipped with a minnow work best.

East Okoboji (Dickinson): Anglers are catching a lot of sub-legal walleyes along with an occasional keeper. Crappies are being caught in good numbers below the overhanging brush and along rocky shorelines. Fish close to shore as many fish are relating to the structure. White bass are being caught near docks and shoreline structures.

Silver Lake (Dickinson): Anglers are still catching walleyes between 13 and 18 inches.

Lost Island (Clay and Palo Alto): Shore anglers continue to have good walleye fishing during the evening. A few crappies are being caught.

Lake Pahoja (Lyon): Fishing is excellent for nice sized channel catfish using traditional baits.

Willow Creek (Osceola): Largemouth bass are being caught on soft plastics and top-water lures. Anglers are encouraged to practice catch and release.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac): Walleye fishing is fair over the rock piles using leeches or crankbaits. Channel catfish are good. Bullhead fishing is good to excellent.

Storm Lake (Buena Vista): Anglers are catching a few walleyes by trolling or using live bait. Channel catfish fishing is excellent. Use leeches, night crawlers or shad entrails around rock areas and the points. White bass fishing is good at the inlet on twister, spinners or trolling crankbaits in open water.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Bass fishing is fair. The bass have moved into shallow water around the edge of the lake. Use any type of plastic lure, minnow or bass bait. Bluegills have been caught along the shoreline in 2 to 3 feet of water using wax worms or worms. Anglers have caught a few crappies. A few channel catfish are being caught at the dam. Walleyes are hitting on leeches or minnows. Use a slip bobber by the rock jetties.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Yellow bass fishing is good around Dodge's Point, the Island and the outlet. Use small jigs and minnows casting into the shoreline. Walleye fishing is good using live bait and jigs or trolling crankbaits. The north shoreline has been the best for walleye. Remember the 14-inch minimum length limit. Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers on the bottom at sunset and into the early evening hours.

Beeds Lake (Franklin): Anglers are catching crappies by drifting or fishing around the jetties. Use small jigs and minnows. The crappies range in size from 7 to 9 inches.

Rice Lake (Worth and Winnebago): Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers on the windy shorelines.

Silver Lake (Worth): Bullhead fishing is good using night crawlers. Yellow perch are being caught using minnows off the fishing jetty.

Briggs Woods (Hamilton): Bluegills are hitting on small jigs and pieces of night crawler. Channel catfish are hitting on chicken liver and prepared baits.

Upper Pine – Lower Pine (Hardin): Crappie fishing is good. Use minnows and small jigs around the downed trees.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Three Mile (Union): Channel catfish are being caught with night crawlers, dip baits or liver. Crappies are in 8 to 10 feet of water. Bluegills are biting better and are moving into the shallow areas. Largemouth bass fishing is good all over the lake.

Twelve Mile (Union): Fishing for channel catfish is good using night crawlers or liver.

Icaria (Adams): Fishing is good for catfish using night crawlers and liver.

Green Valley (Union): Crappies are being caught over the deep rocks early and late in the day. Some really big bluegill can be caught in the shallows with night crawlers. Channel catfish can be caught in the bays using night crawlers.

Little River (Decatur): Some crappies are biting in the shallow rocky areas during the early morning and late afternoon. Catfish can be caught in the bays using liver or night crawlers.

Slip Bluff (Decatur): Some bluegill and crappie are being caught during middle of the day and in the rocks off the dam early and late in the day. Channel catfish are being caught in the bays.

West Lake Osceola (Clarke): Bluegill and largemouth bass fishing is excellent in the timbered coves and along the dam.

Grade Lake (Clarke): Bluegills are biting well on night crawlers and small jigs in the corners of the dam and along the east shore.

Old Corning (Adams): Nice sized bluegills are biting along the dam and in the bays.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Crappies can be caught early in the morning and late evening in the rocks off the dam and jetties. Some bluegill can be caught off the west shore and in the west bay.

Walnut Creek Marsh (Ringgold): Bluegill and crappie can be caught along the south shore and around the jetties.

Windmill Lake (Taylor): Bluegills can be caught with night crawlers in the shallows.

Wilson Lake (Taylor): Crappies can be caught off the rocks by the dam early and late in the day.

Big Creek (Polk): Crappie fishing has slowed but should pick up when the water level drops. Bluegill fishing is slow to fair with fish 8 inches or larger common. Walleye fishing has been good using live bait rigs and spinner rigs tipped with minnows or night crawlers, although most of the walleye are below the 15-inch minimum length limit.

Lake Ahquabi (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been good using jigs with worms. Some anglers are catching bluegills with twister tails. Largemouth bass fishing has been good using top-water lures. Crappie fishing has been good; the best fishing is early morning and late afternoon.

Hooper Lake (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been good using worms and jigs. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good.

Don Williams (Boone): Crappie fishing is excellent using minnows and jigs in shallow water along the shoreline. Bluegill fishing is picking up with good success on smaller fish. Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers and cut baits toward the north end of the lake.

Rock Creek Lake (Jasper): Crappie fishing is good using night crawlers or minnows and jigs. Channel catfish fishing is fair using night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing has been good from shore and boat using jigs and casting lures.

Red Rock (Marion): Fishing has slowed over the past week with the higher water levels. Anglers had been catching crappies - 10 inches and larger - and white bass on jigs and minnows in the bays and coves. Channel catfish fishing has improved in the bays and coves using night crawlers and worms.

Red Rock tailwater (Marion): Crappie and white bass fishing has been good using jigs and minnows. Channel catfish fishing has improved with the increase in water levels.

Roberts Creek (Marion): Crappie fishing has been good using jigs with minnows and/or night crawlers. Channel catfish have been hitting on night crawlers.

Easter Lake (Polk): Crappie fishing has been good for 8 to 9-inch fish using jigs and minnows. Anglers are catching a few walleye while crappie fishing.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): White bass and crappie fishing has been slow to fair in the marina area. However, the reservoir is high and there is considerable floating debris and boaters need to be extra cautious.

Viking (Montgomery): Crappies are fair. Bluegill fishing has picked up and is very good using tube jigs along shoreline and structure. Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers or liver. Largemouth bass fishing has picked up in the evening around structure.

Cold Springs (Cass): Fishing is fair for 7 to 8-inch crappies using jigs and minnows around structure near shore.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Fishing is excellent for channel catfish on Boy Scout Island. A few crappies are being caught in the lagoon. Walleyes are being caught on west shore along rocks.

Orient (Adair): Fishing is fair for 7-inch crappies using jigs and/or minnows along the dam and the southeast shore near the water pump house. Anglers are also catching small bluegills.

Mormon Trail (Adair): Walleye fishing is good using crankbaits or jigs. Crappies, ranging from 7 to 9 inches, have moved away from shore and are in 6 to 8 feet of water. Channel catfish are good using night crawlers or liver.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Fishing is good for 7-inch crappies in 6 to 8 feet of water using jigs and minnows around rocks and woody structure. Bass fishing is good. Anglers are starting to catch channel catfish on liver. Fishing is good bluegills near shore.

DeSoto Bend (Harrison): Walleye and crappie fishing is fair. Walleyes being harvested are 15 to 16 inches. Anglers also are catching good numbers of largemouth bass. Carp are being caught near shore.

Southwest Iowa Farm Ponds: Bluegill and largemouth bass fishing is excellent. Crappies are good. A lot of bluegill can be caught using night crawlers. Remember to ask permission and clean up your trash when fishing on private land.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19: Fishing on the Mississippi River has been fair. The water temperature at Muscatine on **Pool 16** is 67 degrees and the river pool stage is 15.45 and is expected to continue to rise gradually over the next few days. Fishing conditions will be difficult on the main river with water levels above flood levels. **Pools 16-19** have been good for channel catfish on night crawlers, leeches and various baits. The catfish area beginning to spawn and are biting well. Look for catfish in slower shallow flooded areas and backed up stream and creek channels. Bluegill fishing has been good at Lake Odessa and flooded backwater areas on wax worms and red worms. Crappie fishing has been fair on minnows and jigs around flooded vegetation

Lake Odessa (Louisa): Water levels are being lowered for the summer draw down. The water continues to drop slowly although the Mississippi River's high water level has halted that. Some nice bluegills are being caught in some of the smaller backwaters on a worm and bobber.

Lake Darling (Washington): The area received 3-3/4 inches of rain Saturday night and made the lake very muddy. Before the rains anglers were catching some very nice crappies around the cedar trees in the middle of the lake.

Lake Geode (Henry): Weekend rains really didn't affect the lake. Bluegill fishing has been good to excellent depending on the weather. The males are on the spawning beds so concentrate on shallow bays and shorelines. The bass are also in shallow with a few anglers reporting a few on the spawning beds. Crankbaits worked along the edges should give you some nice action.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk): Weekend rains have brought the water level up a little but the water is still clear. Bluegill fishing has been excellent. The big ones have moved onto the beds and away from the deeper water in the trees. Slowly working a jig and worm or a worm and bobber in the shallow water will yield some nice 9 to 10-inch fish. Anglers are catching good numbers of the 10 to 12-inch bass and there are also some legal 15-inch fish being caught. Try fishing plastic worms around the flooded timber for the bass.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Crappies continue to bite on small jigs and minnows. Rocky shorelines or shorelines with underwater structure have been the most productive. Walleyes have been hitting on crankbaits trolled around underwater reefs and islands.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Bluegills and crappies have been hitting on small jigs. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial lures. Walleyes have also been hitting on crankbaits and minnows.

Lake Miami (Monroe): Crappies and bluegills have been hitting on small jigs and minnows. Channel catfish have been biting on night crawlers.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): Crappie fishing has been good around structure in 6 to 10 feet of water. Most of the crappies caught are 8 to 10 inches. Small jigs or minnows fished around the brush or rock is working well. Shoreline fishing has been good along the causeway and off the fishing jetties. Some walleye are being caught and the largemouth bass fishing has been good. Catfish can be caught in the evening in the

shallow bays on dead shad. Bluegills are in spawning, but most fish area between 5 and 7 inches.

Pleasant Creek (Linn): Largemouth bass fishing has been good for 14 to 16-inch fish. Pleasant Creek has an 18-inch size limit on largemouth bass. Bluegill fishing has been good on small jigs and worms. The fish are spawning in the shallow bays and most range from 6 to 8 inches. A few walleye are being caught in the evenings on slip bobbers and leeches.

Lake Iowa (Iowa): Bluegills are spawning and can be caught in the shallow bays on worms or small jigs.

Kent Park Lake (Johnson): Catfish have been biting in the evening. Bluegills can be caught in the shallows on small jigs or small pieces of worm.

Diamond Lake (Poweshiek): Bluegills can be caught using worms off the jetties. Some catfish can be caught in the evenings.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

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